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NFPA® 96

Standard for

Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of
Commercial Cooking Operations

2014 Edition

This edition of NFPA 96, Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Venting Systems for Cooking Appliances, and acted on by NFPA at its June Association Technical Meeting held June 10–13, 2013, in Chicago, IL. It was issued by the Standards Council on August 1, 2013, with an effective date of August 21, 2013, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 96 was approved as an American National Standard on August 21, 2013.

Origin and Development of NFPA 96

The subject of the ventilation of restaurant-type cooking equipment was first considered by the NFPA Committee on Blower and Exhaust Systems, which developed material on ventilation of restaurant-type cooking equipment to be included in NFPA 91, Standard for the Installation of Blower and Exhaust Systems for Dust, Stock, and Vapor Removal or Conveying. That standard was adopted by the Association in 1946, and revisions were adopted in 1947 and 1949.

When the NFPA Committee on Chimneys and Heating Equipment was organized in 1955, the material on ventilation of restaurant cooking equipment in NFPA 91 was assigned to the new committee with the suggestion that it be revised and published as a separate standard. Since then, the standard has been published as NFPA 96. Editions prepared by the Committee on Chimneys and Heating Equipment were adopted by the Association in 1961, 1964, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1976, 1978, 1980, and 1984.

The Correlating Committee on Chimneys and Other Heat and Vapor Removal Equipment was discharged by the Standards Council in 1986. The Technical Committee that prepared the 1987 edition of NFPA 96 became known as the Technical Committee on Venting Systems for Cooking Appliances.

In the 1991 edition, clearance requirements to combustible material were revised and expanded, including appendix figures that illustrated examples. A new definition for limited-combustible was added to the standard, and an appendix table was included to show typical construction assemblies. Chapters 3 and 4 were totally revised.

In the 1994 edition, the Committee changed the name of the standard from Standard for the Installation of Equipment for the Removal of Smoke and Grease-Laden Vapors from Commercial Cooking Equipment to Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations. The title change reflected other changes in the standard: two new chapters, one on recirculating systems and the other on solid fuel cooking operations, were added. A change to clearance and enclosure requirements in the 1994 edition allowed, for the first time, materials or products to be directly applied to a duct.

The Committee prepared a revision to the standard reporting to the 1996 Fall Meeting, which was returned to the Committee at the Technical Committee Reports Session.

The 1998 edition contained new definitions, minor revisions throughout, and a completely revised Chapter 7 on fire-extinguishing equipment.

The 2001 edition revised the document scope to clarify the application of the standard regarding residential-type cooking equipment. Further technical changes clarified requirements for duct installation, rooftop terminations, and fire protection equipment. The 2001 edition also contained a significant organizational and editorial revision based on the Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents.
The 2004 edition added a chapter that addressed the requirements for downdraft appliance ventilation as well as clarifications of the requirements for cleaning and maintaining exhaust systems and diagrams detailing new arrangements for hoods with integrated supply air.

The 2008 edition clarified the requirements for field-applied and factory-built grease duct enclosures. It also recognized new technologies for venting, such as ultraviolet hoods and ventilating ceilings. New requirements were also added for documentation of exhaust system cleaning and maintenance.

The 2011 edition added additional requirements for equipment installed in hoods and ducts. It also required persons conducting inspection and testing of listed hoods to be certified. The maximum distance a fire extinguisher is permitted to be from an appliance was clarified, and it is now required that notification of the impairment of the fire-extinguishing system be given in writing.

The 2014 edition introduces new requirements for the use of solid fuel as a flavor enhancer. It also adds a listing requirement for fans used in exhaust systems, a diagram of a wall-mounted fan, and a requirement for exhaust fan activation when any appliance under a hood is turned on. Criteria have also been added that affect existing dry or wet chemical systems not in compliance with ANSI/UL 300 when significant changes are made to a system and that establish a deadline for fire protection systems to meet the minimum requirements.
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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on fire safety in the design, installation, and use of exhaust systems (including hoods, grease removal devices, exhaust ducts, dampers, air-moving devices, and auxiliary equipment) for the removal of products of combustion, heat, grease, and vapors from cooking equipment, including the application of associated fire extinguishing systems.
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The purpose of this standard shall be to reduce the potential fire hazard of cooking operations, irrespective of the type of cooking equipment used and whether it is used in public or private facilities.

1.3 Application.

1.3.1* This standard shall be applied as a united whole.

1.3.2 The authority having jurisdiction shall determine compliance with this standard and authorize equivalent deviations from it in all applications.

1.4 Retroactivity. The provisions of this standard reflect a consensus of what is necessary to provide an acceptable degree of protection from the hazards addressed in this standard at the time the standard was issued.

1.4.1 Unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this standard shall not apply to facilities, equipment, structures, or installations that existed or were approved for construction or installation prior to the effective date of the standard. Where specified, the provisions of this standard shall be retroactive.

1.4.2 In those cases where the authority having jurisdiction determines that the existing situation presents an unacceptable degree of risk, the authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to apply retroactively any portions of this standard deemed appropriate.

1.4.3 The retroactive requirements of this standard shall be permitted to be modified if their application clearly would be impractical in the judgment of the authority having jurisdiction and only where it is clearly evident that a reasonable degree of safety is provided.

1.5 Equivalency. Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this standard.

1.5.1 Technical documentation shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency.

1.5.2 The system, method, or device shall be approved for the intended purpose by the authority having jurisdiction.